

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22418 031158Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 IO-13 OIC-02 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3549

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

ALL EC CAPITALS 0138

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22418

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UK, FR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS: GOF COMMENTS
ON UK AND DANISH PROBLEMS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7439

1. BOTH EC EXPERTS AT QUAI AND ELYSEE SOURCE REFLECT
GUARDED OPTIMISM THAT UK FAILURE TO TAKE POSITION ON
CODIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION ON DIRECT
ELECTIONS (REFTEL) AT JULY 27 EC FONMIN COUNCIL DOES NOT
AUGUR MAJOR NEW PROBLEMS FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS.

2. QUAI BELIEVES BRITISH DELAY IS MAINLY DUE TO
CALLAGHAN'S PROBLEMS IN MUSTERING NECESSARY SUPPORT IN
TRANSPORT HOUSE, RATHER THAN IN WHITEHALL, AND EXPECTS
THEY WILL BE FAVORABLY RESOLVED BY FALL. ELYSEE SOURCE
WAS LESS SPECIFIC BUT A SHADE MORE POSITIVE, LEAVING
IMPRESSION THAT BRITISH MAY HAVE REASSURED ELYSEE ABOUT
THEIR INTENTIONS. BOTH SOURCES STRESS OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22418 031158Z

OF UK COMMITMENT TO ELECTION DATE TO AVOID MAJOR PROB-

LEMS IN FRENCH PARLIAMENT. ON OTHER HAND, ONCE UK IS
ON BOARD, QUAI SEEMS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE
FRENCH DOMESTIC REACTIONS BECAUSE OF DANISH RESERVATIONS.

3. WE TOO HAVE IMPRESSION FROM THESE CONTACTS THAT
FRENCH CONSIDER OCTOBER THE MORE LIKELY DATE FOR RESOLU-
TION OF THIS ISSUE FOR REASONS CITED REFTEL.
GAMMON

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